

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): a) to (f) the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Dhaka-Calcutta Bus Service

863. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are keen to launch Dhaka-Calcutta Express bus service; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The detailed modalities have not been finalised.

Setting up of Export Oriented Oil Refineries

864. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give permission for setting up Export Oriented Oil Refineries;

(b) if so, whether such refineries are likely to be granted deemed export benefits in respect of sales to domestic market via international tendering or otherwise;

(c) whether such domestic sales would be exempted from customs duty;

(d) whether provisions of Sec. 80HHC and Minimum Alternate Tax of the Income Tax Act, will be applicable to profits made by such refineries;

(e) whether as a result of the indirect subsidies and exemption as above the proposed EOU refineries would enjoy an undue competitive advantage over domestic refineries; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Education in English Medium

865. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh propose to provide education through English medium to the students belonging to poor and backward classes in the Government schools; and

(b) if so, the view point of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[*English*]

Gas and Oil Exploration

866. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI :
DR. ASIM BALA :
SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY :
SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :
SHRI RUPCHAND PAL :
SHRI ANIL BASU :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that gas and oil is coming out through tubewells in different parts of the Sundarban area of West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to send ONGC expert to examine this;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Purchase of Aircraft

867. SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred by Indian Airlines on the purchase of aircraft spares during the last three years and the details thereof;

(b) the aircraft tyre items being imported and the manner in which the tyres removed from the aircraft on expiry of its wear and tear are disposed of;

(c) whether such tyres can be repaired and reused; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The expenditure incurred by Indian Airlines on the purchase of aircraft spares during the last three years is as under:—

Year	(Rs. in crores)
1994-95	174
1995-96	227
1996-97	310

(b) to (d) The tyres removed from the aircraft are examined to ascertain as to whether these can be retreaded or not. If suitable for retreading, the aircraft

tyres are sent abroad for retreading and then re-used. If found not fit for further retreading, these are scrapped and sold as scrappage in India.

[Translation]

Irrigation Projects of Gujarat

868. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of irrigation projects implemented in Gujarat with foreign assistance;

(b) the present status of these projects;

(c) the year in which these projects were started and the details of the expenditure incurred on them till date;

(d) whether there is any scheme which is not being implemented or whose work has been disrupted; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for disruption of work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (c) The details of Irrigation Projects being implemented with foreign assistance in Gujarat are as follows:—

(Amount in Million in donor currency)

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Assisting Agency	Amount of Assistance	Date of agreement	Utilisation as on 31.3.97
1.	Hydrology Project	World Bank (Multi-State)	US\$ 142.0	9.6.95	US\$ 4.367
2.	Water Resources Development & Management	The Netherlands	Dfl 6.40	17.2.95	Assistance is in the form of technical Corporation.
3.	Hydroplus Fusegate System on 4 Dams in Gujarat	France	FF 17.86	26.4.96	Letter of Instruction (LOI) issued recently.

Note . 1 US\$ = Rs. 35.70
1 Dfl = Rs. 17.46
1 FF = Rs. 5.83

(d) No, Such case came in the Notice.

(e) Does not arise